

# Nursing Attitudes Towards Abortion Care: The Impact of a Values Clarification Session

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## BACKGROUND

- Values Clarification (VC) aligns people’s thoughts and feelings with their choices and actions
- VC regarding abortion not well documented or assessed
- Gaps exist in studying VC among non-physicians in the US
- The US is increasingly restrictive towards abortion both institutionally and governmentally

## METHODS

- VCs at a Level IV Obstetric and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Fives sessions held between August and September 2019
- Sessions mandatory for all Labor & Delivery nurses
- Voluntary pre- & post- surveys were administered
- Surveys focused on attitudes towards and current/future involvement in abortion care
- Analysis via paired t-test comparing individual level Likert data
- McNemar’s test with false discovery rate for dichotomized data

Following Values Clarification, nurses had increased agreement with the availability of abortion services in various contexts



## RESULTS

- Increased agreement with availability of abortion services
  - To any person who requests them
  - For non-lethal anomalies regardless of trimester
  - In the third trimester
    - For lethal fetal anomalies
    - Maternal health conditions
  - After viability at the study hospital
- Increased behavioral intention to participate in such care not statistically significant
- Noted barriers to participation in abortion care

Personal/religious beliefs (n=16)

Emotionally challenging (n=16)

Lack of experience (n=10)



## CONCLUSIONS

- Following Values Clarification
  - Increased agreement with the availability of abortion services in various contexts
  - Trend towards increased comfort with participation in abortion care
- Further research should explore interventions in geographically and sociodemographically different contexts

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